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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 006143

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/CT RHONDA SHORE, ED SALAZAR
DEPT FOR NCTC

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [KISL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [BG](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: 2005 COUNTRY REPORT ON TERROR

1. The POC for Embassy Dhaka is Robert Wong, Political Officer. Email: wongre@state.gov. The report will also be sent to Rhonda Shore and Ed Salazar via email.

2. BEGIN TEXT

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The Bangladesh government affirms full support for the global war on terror, and in 2005 it adhered to nine additional UN Conventions on Terrorism, leaving the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism as the only one it has not joined. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia regularly condemned terrorism at domestic and international forums. Bangladesh enforces UN Security Council resolutions related to terrorism, including the identification and freezing of assets of individuals and organizations designated as terrorists or terrorist supporters. It banned as terrorist organizations Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB), Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), and Harkat ul-Jihad-I-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B).

Bangladesh's limited success, however, in countering JMB's escalating acts of terrorism in 2005 underscored the government's serious institutional, resource, and political constraints. Porous borders, endemic corruption, and debilitating in-fighting between the two major political parties continued to undermine the government's broader counterterrorism posture.

There are no formal U.S.-Bangladesh agreements on the investigation or prosecution of acts of international terrorism against U.S. citizens or interests. However, in 2005 there was good cooperation between law enforcement agencies on several cases relating to domestic terrorism. With U.S. technical assistance, Bangladesh in 2005 drafted a new, comprehensive anti-money laundering law. It is also working with the U.S. to strengthen controls at land, sea, and aeronautical ports of entry.

North Korea, Iran, and Libya have diplomatic missions in Bangladesh. Cuba, Syria, and Sudan have non-resident missions.

SAFE HAVEN ASSESSMENT

Bangladesh asserts there are no international terrorist groups in Bangladesh, and denies allegations that northeast Indian insurgent groups operate from Bangladesh with the connivance of the government. The Bangladesh military maintained a large presence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), and periodically uncovered weapons caches left over from dormant insurgencies in Burma and the CHT. Bangladesh supports the Port Security Initiative and the Container Security Initiative.

TERRORIST GROUPS

In 2005, there was a significant shift in terrorism's targets, style, and tempo in Bangladesh. Previously, attacks were on isolated individuals, largely went unclaimed, and were not seen as part of a broader, public campaign. In 2005, JMB emerged as an organization capable of launching coordinated nationwide attacks on "un-Islamic" persons and facilities in pursuit of its goal of a fundamentalist Islamic society.

On August 17, JMB exploded nearly 500 coordinated small bombs across the country. Leaflets found at the blast sites threatened judges, government officials, politicians, and other "enemies of Islam," including the U.S. and the UK. In November, JMB breached a major psychological

barrier by launching deadly suicide attacks, a first in Bangladesh.

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

There have been no attacks against U.S. citizens or interests in Bangladesh.

END TEXT

13. Post submits information for the section "Foreign Terrorist Organizations" keyed to the 2005 format.

14. BEGIN TEXT

Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh

DESCRIPTION

The JMB is a Bangladeshi Islamic extremist group dedicated to the use of violence to achieve its objective of a society governed by Sharia law. It has no known international affiliations. JMB made its first appearance in the late 1990s, was associated with several bombings in subsequent years preceding the August 17 blasts, and was banned by the Bangladesh government on February 23, 2005.

ACTIVITIES

On August 17, 2005, JMB claimed responsibility for nearly 500 simultaneous small explosions throughout Bangladesh. Additional bomb attacks occurred, including the use of suicide bombers, targeting judges, police, government offices, traditional folk festivals and cultural groups, and local non-governmental organizations. Despite arrests and seizures of explosive materials, JMB attacks continue and its leadership remains at large.

STRENGTH

Estimates range from 11,000 to 1,000.

LOCATION/AREA OF OPERATIONS

Bangladesh

EXTERNAL AID

Unknown

END TEXT

15. As per instructions, post will send the text(as a Word document) via unclassified email.

CHAMMAS